GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
POWER
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4493
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2000
THERMAL POWER STATIONS IN THE COUNTRY
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government prefers thermal power to hydel power;

(b) if so, the number of thermal as well as hydel power stations set up in the country so far alongwith reasons for developing more number of thermal power stations than hydels;

(c) whether majority of the country`s total hydel power potential is lying untapped; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to tap the hydel power potential?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER

(SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA)

(a) & (b) : The ideal hydro-thermal mix is 40:60. This was maintained upto the end of 5th Plan period (March, 1979). However, due to various factors such as delay in civil works, geological surprises, issues relating to Environment and Forests Act, contractual and law and order problems, fund constraints, resettlement and rehabilitation issues and inter-State disputes etc., development of hydro power could not keep pace with thermal power. In order to meet the demand of power for the development of the economy, the development of thermal power outstripped the hydro development, as thermal plants have low gestation period and encounter less problems vis-a-vis hydro power. The present hydro-thermal mix is about 25:75.

As on 31.3.2000, there are 87 steam based thermal power stations, 41 gas based stations and 322 hydel stations in the country.

(c) & (d) : The economically exploitable hydro potential of the country is assessed as 84044 MW at 60% load factor, out of which 13579.1 MW (16.16%) has been developed and 5467.88 MW (6.51%) is under various stages of development in the country. To accelerate the pace of hydro power development in the country, the Government have taken several steps such as creation of power corporations under Central/Joint Sector, liberalisation of policies and procedures to attract private investment, emphasis on renovation, modernisation and uprating of existing hydro stations and small hydro developments etc. With the objective for faster development of hydro potential, the Government of India has announced a policy on hydro development in August, 1998 incorporating several measures. Besides, Government has also announced a mega power policy including hydro power projects.